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quoted by him, that the novelist is a native of Warsaw, Olchewitz by name, and that "Verne" is but a translation of the "initial syllable of his family patronymic";<sup>13</sup> and such reading would also have convinced him<sup>14</sup> that the author of the work edited was born at Nantes, February 8, 1828, a Frenchman of France, and not in 1814 as the American Supplement of the *Britannica* (I believe alone) supposes.

[I received the following letter from Jules Verne after the review, given above, had been written :

Amiens, le 17 Avril, 1895.

Cher Monsieur,

Je me hâte de répondre à votre aimable lettre que je viens de recevoir à l'instant. Elle a couru à Nantes, puis à Paris, et elle est arrivée à Amiens, ma ville d'adoption, où je demeure depuis 25 ans. La fable ou légende que vous me citez, j'ai déjà eu l'occasion de la démentir. Non, je ne suis point Polonais. Je suis Français, né à Nantes, 8 février 1828, de parents français, mon père étant originaire des environs de Paris (Provins, Brie) et ma mère de la Basse-Bretagne (Morlaix). C'est être déjà vieux que d'être né en 1828, et je proteste absolument contre la date de 1814. Il me faudrait encore un certain nombre d'années pour achever l'oeuvre des Voyages Extraordinaires! Y arriverais-je à les avoir? ... qui sait, si ce n'est la Providence!

Veuillez me compter parmi vos amis, cher monsieur, moi qui compte bien des amis, je crois, dans les Etats-Unis d'Amérique.

[JULES VERNE.]

W. STUART SYMINGTON, JR.

Leland Stanford Jr. University.

I MUST thank Mr. Symington for the foregoing review, and am only sorry it did not appear sooner, so that use might have been made of it in the preparation of my third edition of *Michel Strogoff*. There are one or two suggestions, however, conveyed by this review, which, in justice to myself, should be corrected.

In such words as *complètement*, I retain

<sup>13</sup> Dr. Lewis does not notice that *Verne* is not "beech" but "alder." See preface.

<sup>14</sup> The editor gives his readers the choice of the two dates (1814 and 1828), but adds in the foot-note: "So far as I know at present, this [1828] is the correct statement." It may be of interest to know that M. Jules Troubat, librarian at the *Bibliothèque nationale*, Paris, kindly confirmed my opinions as expressed above.

Verne's spelling, for he often uses an acute accent over the *e* immediately preceding a mute *e*; for the same reason do I retain the hyphen between *très* and a following adjective. I thought every American student would understand the reference to a "Delaware"; *podaroshna* is explained, I think, in the course of the text, and I give translations for *tarentass*, *télégraphie*, *ienschik* and *kreml*. Such expressions would be as strange to a French boy as they are to our young students, and I think it is really a mistake to weary the latter with too frequent notes, which would then, I fear, be read only by the instructor. As for the note on *pour qui*, it should have been quoted in full (the reference is to p. 6, l. 22); this is the final statement: "the full expression would be *pour celui qui*, the shorter *pour qui* being more indefinite."<sup>1</sup> I rather like the term "neuter pronoun," which I am by no means the first to use, but it is true that *était-il* cannot be neuter, any more than "was it" in English; this reading will be changed in the next edition.

Now we come to the use of free translation with American students. If it be true that "free translation is the curse of modern elementary text-books," I think it no less true that "literal translation is the bane of modern language teaching in all grades," and I have in mind more than one edition of French texts. In other words, the two extremes are injurious. I often give the literal translation of French expressions, generally accompanied with a rendering into idiomatic English. Sometimes I do not give this literal paraphrasing, and for obvious reasons, especially when the words are common. For example, how do the following sentences sound in English: "Horse of depth," "this did not make the affair of the correspondent," "as well as badly," "to a good deal near," "outside of him and by," "have cheap of?" No, there are times when a literal translation is nothing short of absurd, though the instructor must be most careful not to allow free translation to be synonymous with careless translation.

<sup>1</sup> And so with my rendering of *manquer de* on p. 5, l. 23; I translate it here so as to help the student in this particular passage. A glance at any French dictionary, under *manquer* would show the need of such assistance.

Careless translation is, most assuredly, the "curse" of modern language teaching, a curse which fortunately our American instructors are guarding against more and more.

I must confess that I do not fully appreciate the logical reasoning of Mr. Symington's students in the translation of *rien de moins que*, but this is probably not the first time a teacher has been mystified by a student's reasoning. As to Mr. Symington's remark about my note on *tout*, I need only say that I was referring to the adverbial use of *tout*, as illustrated in both the examples noted, of which the second is: *si, toute femme, tout enfant qu'elle était. Toute* is used before *autre* when it qualifies the following feminine noun; as, for example, *toute autre place qu'un trône eût été*, meaning *toute place autre qu'un trône*, etc.;<sup>2</sup> but when *tout* modifies *autre* itself, it remains unchanged, as in *vous méritez une tout autre fortune, donnez-moi une tout autre occupation*. Yet in my next edition I shall state distinctly that I am referring to the adverbial use of *tout*. In an elementary textbook, however, such niceties of spelling need not be considered, and especially as they are not mentioned in such a work as Whitney's large French Grammar (cf. § 116, c, where, it is true, the example *elles sont toutes malades* is unfortunate).

But I must pass on to statements which, if correct, would show that I am a most careless. nay, even ignorant editor. I refer to Mr. Symington's comments on my unpretentious biographical note. While reading whatever material I could find on Verne's life, I was rather amused at three statements contained in generally reliable works; my amusement was caused by the wide difference of opinion on the birth and life of an author so well-known as Jules Verne, who was born in the beginning of this century. So I quoted these three statements, remarking in a note that I considered correct the one found in Johnson's *New Universal Cyclopædia* (iv, p. 1137); namely, that Verne "was born at Nantes on the 8th February, 1828." And now I am supposed to find these sources "final." I mention

<sup>2</sup> This use of *toute* is the same as in the example *j'y resterai toute une année* (Edgren's *French Grammar*, § 292); that is, *toute* is here an adjective.

in a note which statement I believe to be correct, and, in spite of that, my reviewer seems to be under the impression that I think Verne to be the translation of a Polish name Olchewitz; he even represents me as not noticing that *verne* means "alder," and not "beech," when I am merely quoting from the *Dial* a statement taken from the *London Literary World*. If Verne is mentioned (or "not mentioned") only in the dictionaries and catalogues cited by Mr. Symington, I shall still maintain that "the material already in existence for Jules Verne's life is most meagre." The article which I said, in my preface, was sent me by Mr. S. S. McClure, has since then appeared in his *Magazine*, and is still the most interesting article which has come to light so far. I merely ask that Mr. Symington's review of my biographical note be compared with the note itself, and I believe that most editors will agree with me in thinking that such criticism is more careless, to say the least, than my note appears to the critic. Notice, for instance, the fourteenth and last note: I am supposed to "give my readers the choice of two dates," and then I am made to "add" that "this is the correct statement." What is the correct statement? The choice? This misrepresentation is unfortunate, especially when my note very distinctly referred to a statement which I am glad to see has since been confirmed by M. Jules Troubat.

EDWIN S. LEWIS.

Princeton University.

#### GERMAN LANGUAGE.

*Deutsche Studentensprache* von FRIEDRICH KLUGE, Professor an der Universität Freiburg i. B. Strassburg: Karl J. Trübner, 1895. 8vo, pp. x, 136.

IN this comprehensive little book, Kluge has given to students of the German language much new and valuable information about the etymology of numerous words which have long been in familiar use, but whose historical origin has thus far remained unknown to makers of dictionaries. Besides presenting the results of the laborious investigations necessary for a special work of this kind, he has brought to bear a rich fund of knowledge,